

UFO Reporter

Volume 7 Number 1 April 2002

Quirindi: the full story

On Monday 10 August 1998, Eunice Stansfield (61) was visited by her daughter Noelene and both were in the garden on the northern side of Eunice's home in Gurton Street, southwest Quirindi (south $31^{\circ} 31' 05 \pm 0.5''$, east $150^{\circ} 40' 31 \pm 0.5''$). It was around 1 p.m. and they had just finished a cup of tea after a pleasant, leisurely lunch around the concrete garden table. Eunice cleared away and took the teacups inside while Noelene lay down full length along the garden bench to relax, looking straight up into the clear, sunny sky.

There had been some days of overcast, unsettled weather previously. Very heavy rains further west and to the north had created severe flooding in inland New South Wales, but Quirindi had missed most of this and 10 August was a clear, cool, late-winter's day.

On returning to the garden Eunice heard Noelene say distinctly, 'That's going bloody fast!'

Eunice looked upwards to where Noelene was pointing and

saw a silvery ball moving quickly across the sky, from north to south, disappearing over the roof of the house.

Noelene got up off the bench and both women walked quickly around the front of the house to the southside garden, to follow where the object had gone. Eunice's husband, Mario was nailing some shade cloth up in the front verandah of the house and the women called him to 'have a look at the flying balls' as they passed. Mario was sawing wood with an electric saw and thought Eunice was having a joke.

Eunice and Noelene watched the metal sphere take up a position in the sky about 25 degrees up from the horizon, about $6.5 (\pm 0.5)$ km south of the house.

The sphere 'cluster'

Then they noticed a second metal sphere, closely followed by a third, in the southeastern sky, which travelling east to west to join the first sphere. (None of the flying craft seen made any noise during the entire display which lasted about 1.5 hours.)

Other spheres began to join the group. They tended to mostly arrive from or depart to the north and east 'in waves', until there were up to 20 craft moving around in the sky.

Silver dumbbells

One larger sphere (about one and a half times bigger than the others) was seen to approach the sphere 'cluster' from the southern sky. When it closed on the group, Eunice said that it appeared to turn side-on slightly, and she could see that it was in fact two spheres, connected ('tethered') by a horizontal rod (soon afterwards described to Eunice as a 'dumbbell' shape). The connecting rod had a smaller cylindrical section mid-way. There appeared to be vertical vanes or struts running from the outer spheres to the central cylinder – see Figure 2. Later on, a second dumbbell took up a parallel position behind and slightly above the first.

Grafton ufologist Barry Taylor has suggested that the joining rod and vanes may not have been solid, but due to some other effect. Barry suggests each dumbbells may be three separate objects – 2 orbs and a cylinder, like a series of objects he videoed over Grafton on 26 June 1999.

The dumbbells did not move around as much as the smaller spheres and hovered most of the time in the same part of the sky,

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Reviving the *UFO Reporter*

We apologise for delays getting this issue of the *UFO Reporter* to you. After checking details of the Quirindi case with the Stansfields on 12 April 2002, in a earlier version (March 2002), it was necessary to update the account we had provided and re-issue the magazine. *BD*

We hope our UFOR(NSW) members like their 'revived' quarterly magazine, the *UFO Reporter*.

Longer-term members will remember how we discontinued producing this publication about five years ago to spend more time on other activities, such as organising public seminars. Publishing a regular quality magazine is a huge drain on the Committee's resources and we thought our limited time and energies might be more effectively spent elsewhere.

Originally we had planned a trial period of two years during which we would provide members with an alternative — the glossy quarterly, the *Ufologist*, published in Brisbane, as a kind of national UFO fanzine. We asked our regular writers to submit their material to the *Ufologist* instead of UFOR(NSW) and would also provide Brisbane with information about our group's activities. We believed that when our membership increased and more people came on board to help the Committee in a couple of years, we would look again at publishing our own magazine.

The original trial has now been going for an additional two years. Meanwhile our membership has actually gone into decline and the arrangement has not been economically viable for the last three years. The *Ufologist* supplied to our members in that time has been heavily subsidised by Committee members.

While we get a special 'bulk' subscription rate from Brisbane, with postage, it still costs us \$5.50 per copy per member, or \$22 a year per member for four issues (about \$2000 per year all up). This is about our average annual subscription rate per member. This new, not-so-glossy publication will cut these costs by about 65%, but take more of our time, so please bear with us a little.

Furthermore, our members still did not see the *Ufologist* as **their** magazine, containing significant input from other UFOR(NSW) members. Several months ago, one member chastised me strongly, saying that we should be able to produce 'our own' quality material. She quoted as a good example an article in a previous *Ufologist* someone had written about the Father Gill sighting in New Guinea. This was an article I had authored.

Basically, it seems that unless our members get something they can hold onto, and which has either 'Sydney' or 'NSW' plastered all over it, then it doesn't count. Which is a great pity, because the *Ufologist* is an excellent publication and I know the amount of time the editors put into it.

For this matt-paper reincarnation of the *UFO Reporter* to survive, it needs the full support of the UFOR(NSW) membership and your practical support as well. Please do not assume that Committee members have the time to scour every newspaper or every electronic noticeboard for good UFO information to pass on to members. If you come across something — an article, newsclipping, or cartoon, or whatever, cut it out or copy it, write on the date and the source you got it from and send it on to us. Ten copies of the same cartoon are better than not getting it all. After all, this is your publication.

Finally, I would like to thank Robert and Diane of the *Ufologist* for their support and help in the past, and I look forward to working with them in the future.

Bryan Dickeson

UFO Reporter

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with their axes aligned east-west. Eunice described them as being '2-3 fingers wide' at arm's length (triangulation suggests the two dumbbells may have been 170 ± 30 metres long, the smaller spheres 15 ± 3 m in diameter) — see Figure 2.). The outer spheres of the dumbbell were a bright, metallic chrome, the joining bar and cylindrical middle section a duller, grey pewter colour. (

Most of the objects seen were the smaller, pewter-coloured spheres.

Complex movements

Eunice called again for Mario to come and watch. He turned his saw off and placed it on the floor of the verandah, because he could now see the spheres passing over the house for himself. The saw turned itself back on, and after several attempts to turn it off, Mario unplugged the saw from its extension cord before it would stay off. (This suggests the nearby objects may have been 'inducing' sufficient electrical energy in the electric cord to run the power saw.)

Mario is a retired combat pilot who saw action during the Six-Day War in the Middle East (June 1967). He estimated the objects were about 10,000 feet (3km) high. Mario is familiar with conventional aircraft overflying the area, and first thought the objects must be helicopters. However, they were too big and their movement 'too different'. He watched the display for at least 50 minutes.

The spheres then began manoeuvring quickly about each other. They would stop (hover), and restart, moved up and down and around, but 'never got any lower than the height planes normally fly over [Quirindi] at'.

The manoeuvres became very complex, and while centred some 6.5 km south of Quirindi, covered most of the sky — it was difficult for any one witness to follow all of what was going on. Up to 20 objects would be manoeuvring at a time, with others 'coming in over the house':

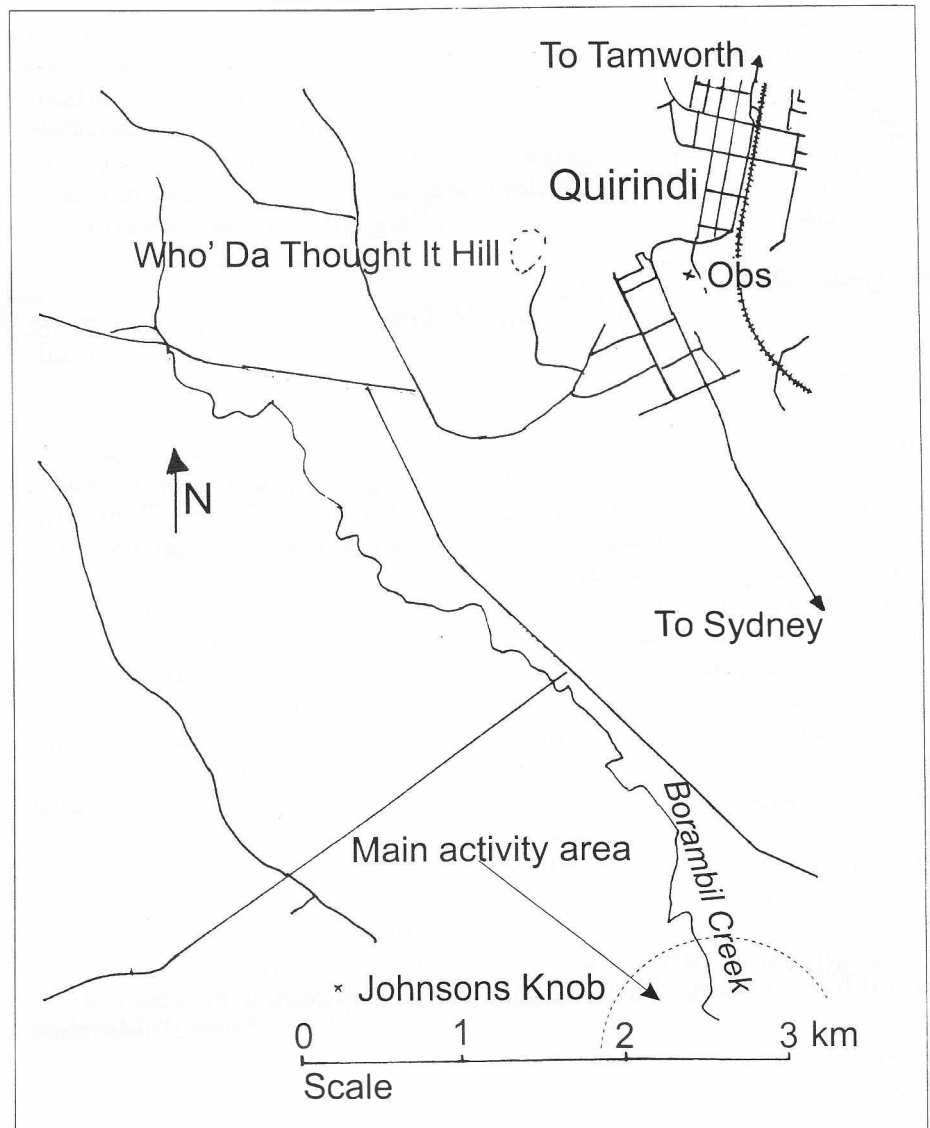


Figure 1: Southwest Quirindi

- objects in close formation would veer off to the left and right, or quickly approach one another, almost to the same point and then stop and hover
- objects made right-angle turns at speed
- several objects would travel side-by-side or 'mirror' each other's complex moves
- a reasonably slow, even movement would turn abruptly into a series of very fast
- at one time four spheres stacked up one on top of each other, stationary, near one of the dumbbells (Mario)
- lines of stationary spheres would leapfrog one another. A sphere in a line would move up and over a stationary one in front or behind, falling into line by exactly the same distance ahead. The next sphere would leapfrog under its neighboring

sphere and take up position, and so on

- from a flying arrowhead formation of five spheres, one banked left, one right, one or two flew straight-ahead and one flew straight downwards
- two spheres followed each other in tight formation and at very high speed while other spheres moved in and around these two central objects, travelling even faster and in a more intricate path
- Mario saw at least one of the smaller spheres fly up and into one of the dumbbells (which other investigators later called 'motherships' — a term the Stansfields seem to have adopted since) at speed and vanish
- one of the stationary dumbbells had a smaller sphere head directly towards it as if to

collide, executed a right-angle turn, then swerved to pass back right through the dumbbell and came out the other side unchanged.

These were precise and deliberate, skilfully controlled, 'display' movements.

Angels' hair

The witnesses could not see any 'exhaust' from the spheres when they flew in a straight line, but while the objects were manoeuvring, they could clearly see a light, whitish material streaming 'out of the back of the craft, and falling downwards' — see Figure 2.

The light, white material appeared to clump into long, substantial strands as it fell earthwards, landing on telephone wires and trees. There was very little wind to blow it away, but occasional atmospheric thermals carried it higher up. Very little of this material actually landed in Eunice's place, but pieces fell in surrounding areas and some onto the street nearby.

Noelene first retrieved a 30cm strand from a nearby bush - it was extremely light, whitish and strong, like cotton, requiring a slight tug to break. However, it soon 'dissolved' away to nothing when handled. Then Noelene found a second piece which was about 90 cm long and which seemed to be made up of two separate strands. She put this into a clean yoghurt container with a piece of plastic film over the top and a rubber band to hold the film wrap in place.

Looking into the sun

Eunice was trying to watch as much of the display as she could and moved around the outside of the house following the aerobatics. While back near the lunch table in the north garden and looking into the sky towards the sun, she noticed something unusual:

□ The sun itself appeared to be surrounded by an unusual, complicated white and yellow 'lace-like' pattern. It was 'very beautiful'. At first Eunice thought that it might be caused by the white 'angels hair' the spheres gave out during their manoeuvres, but there were very few strands in that part of the sky and the lacework pattern centred on the sun was very pronounced.

□ While closely following the movements of passing spheres, Eunice realised that she could also look directly into the sun. There was no pain or harm to her eyes — she was not even temporarily blinded.

None of the other witnesses reported any similar effects.

Eunice began to think that someone else in authority ought to know about what was going on and went inside to look for their video camera and to telephone someone. She first phoned Telstra Directory Information Service to see whom she should call. They put her on to Greg Ver in Victoria who runs a 'National UFO Information hotline' as a commercial venture, under the business name of 'Ross Dowe'. She spoke to Greg Ver for about 5 minutes (at \$3.20 per minute) before saying she had to ring off because she couldn't afford to

Lace sun pattern

This phenomenon has usually also been associated with BVM manifestations, at places like Fatima, and more recently, at Medjugorje (in Croatia). The sun can be looked at and appears to be surrounded by a 'corona' or zone of patterned light or coloured light.

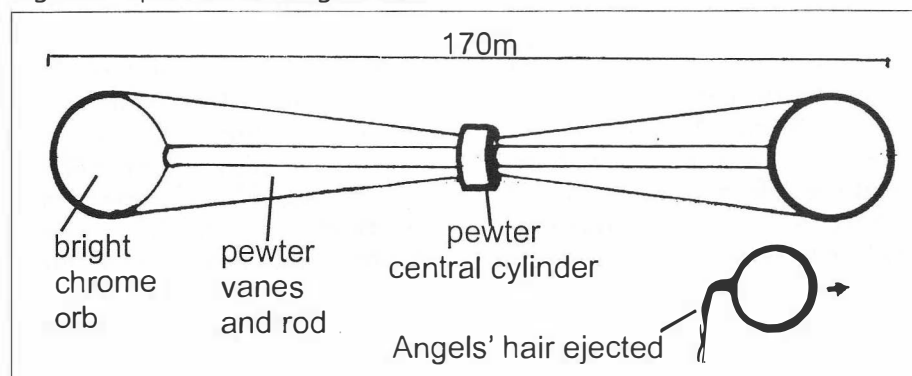
For Quirindi and in scientific terms, this is very probably a three-dimensional 'Moire' pattern caused by the superposition (constructive and destructive interference) of powerful, fluctuating magnetic fields produced by the objects flying and hovering around the area. It provides some extremely interesting insights into how these objects do what they do.

To my knowledge, this effect has never been observed at an entirely ufological event, previously, and in some detail. The Stansfields did not attach any religious significance to the events at Quirindi on 10 August 1998 at all. Eunice thought that it was just another something that was unexpected, which others might find interesting.

keep paying for the call. Greg wanted her to keep talking about the incident. (Telstra gets the first \$3.20, and he gets any extra time.) She gave him her phone number so he could call her back and pay for the call, if he wanted to (Greg had said he couldn't guarantee he would call her back, and has not since).

However, within a few minutes and while Eunice was still looking for the video camera, the phone started ringing as radio stations and newspapers began calling Eunice directly — Greg had sent out a general news release to the AAP-Reuters network with Eunice's phone number. By the

Figure 2. Sphere with angels' hair



time Eunice gave up answering the phone to provide on-the-spot interviews, to go back outside, the objects had all gone. No video was taken. Neither Mario or Noelene were sufficiently familiar with the video camera to record the event.

The objects vanish

Mario said that meanwhile, the objects had been 'jumping from side to side' — they would fade-out in one location and fade back into view nearby, before eventually they all disappeared. At one stage, one of the dumbbells had taken up a position about 500m directly overhead. It had then flown directly upwards, to a height he estimated to be about 50,000 to 60,000 feet (15–19 km), 'higher than the big [interstate] jets we often see going overhead', and then back to directly overhead. Then it too had 'gone out'.

Orange ball of light

Later that day, at around 7.30 p.m., Mario heard all the neighborhood dogs barking and went outside — he saw a very bright reddish-orange ball of fire, a little smaller than the moon, pass almost overhead, slowly and smoothly from the east — as if covered with flames. He was unable to estimate its height against the dark sky, except to say it was probably not very high up — it disappeared after several minutes behind a hill to the west of the house, called 'Who' Da Thought It Lookout'

Media interest

Brief news of the Quirindi incident was carried on radio networks that afternoon, and some radio stations broadcast excerpts of their telephoned interviews with Eunice. Some journalists also contacted Moira McGhee of the Independent Network of UFO Researchers (INUFOR) in Sydney for comment, but Moira had nothing to add and could not contact the Stansfields for more details. Greg Ver's initial news release had mis-spelt the name (as 'Stanfield') and it took a day for Moira to work around this. Other UFO research-

ers simply gave up trying to contact the Stansfields at all.

Accounts appeared in local papers such as Tamworth's *Northern Daily Leader* (a short, error-ridden account also appeared in the Sydney's *Daily Telegraph*) on Tuesday 11 August). Tamworth is 61km north of Quirindi.

The Tamworth article attracted the attention of a Telstra technician from Gunnedah. He had been routinely checking the Piallaway telephone exchange, 40km North of Quirindi soon after 2 p.m. on Monday 10 August, when he noticed masses of white cobweb-like material falling down

Angels' hair

Extensive spider web falls (gossamer) are often reported in Nature and have been confused with angels' hair in the past. If you get a population explosion of small spiders in a particular area during ideal seasonal conditions, the spiders synchronously extrude a long length of web from their abdomen which is lifted on the wind (like a parachute) to disperse the spider to a new area. The web is then discarded and can form a silvery mass on vegetation, etc. Spiders web is a protein which is chemically much more stable than angels' hair.

Reports of angels' hair are fairly common from the 1950s and 1960s, but only rarely reported since then. When 'fresh', its white or bluish white, finely fibrous and breaks easily, a bit like very fine cotton wool. It quickly 'ages' by dissolving back into the atmosphere (sublimating from a solid to a gas, without an intermediate liquid stage) — the fibres tend to coalesce and a mass of fibres may have a shiny or glossy white surface. Touching it seems to hasten the sublimation process (presumably due the oils and acids on human skin). It rarely persists longer than one or two hours.

During the 1950s, UFO investigators proposed a 'fairy floss'/'candy floss' model to explain its formation, but no-one (to my knowledge) has ever tried to recreate it in a laboratory. Back then, angels' hair was believed to be a polymer made up mostly of air 'stuff' (possibly a mixture of nitrogen, oxygen and

water vapour). It was 'created by the unusually high frequency electromagnetic and plasma effects presumed to exist near some UFOs (especially spinning disks) under certain atmospheric condition. (In a fairy floss/candy floss machine, coloured sugar is melted in a small, heated cup and flows outwards through tiny holes in the walls of the spinning cup by centrifugal force. When the molten sugar hits the air it cools into the fibres of coloured sugar-glass we call fairy floss.)

Angels' hair was thought to form when rotating electromagnetic fields near UFOs create highly-directed, 180-degree metastable Nitrogen-Oxygen bonds. These link up into long polymers or fibres around a quickly-rotating body such as a disk or a sphere, or in air squeezed through a magnetic field generated in the central cylindrical section of a bar-magnet-type field. At Quirindi, angels' hair was seen to stream out from behind the manoeuvring spheres. The metastable chemical bonds quickly break down under normal conditions, so that the fibres transform back into 'air and water vapour'.

Historically, during one of the Fatima 'manifestations' of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM), light white fibrous material was seen to fall onto the assembled crowd from a glowing sphere in the sky (a 'second Sun'). This soon sublimated, and has been wrongly referred to in some accounts as 'white rose petals'.

around him from a clear blue sky, onto fences, telephone lines, bushes and his car. He could not see anything up in the sky and was mystified by it all. The cobweb-like substance evaporated fairly quickly when handled. When he got back home to Gunnedah, he noticed there were still some remnants on his car but this had since vanished.

Noelene's sample

Moira McGhee was finally able to speak to the Stansfields on the evening of 11 August and convinced Eunice to send Noelene's angels' hair sample in the yoghurt container to Sydney. It appears that when the Stansfields checked the the sample, it had shrunk to

something 'smaller than a matchhead'. Noelene went outside and collected a 'similar' sample of white fibre she found sticking to a car aerial and put that into the container, before wrapping and posting it to Moira on Wednesday. (At the time there was scepticism from some UFO researchers that there would be anything left of the sample if it were truly angels' hair — see inset.)

Eunice was subsequently interviewed at length over the phone by Moira McGhee (INUFOR), and Peter Turner and Bryan Dickeson (of UFORNSW).

The angels' hair sample arrived at Moira's place in Sydney on Thursday 13 August and was placed in her refrigerator freezer

unopened. Bill Chalker, who has access to laboratory sampling facilities, collected it on Saturday evening 15 August. Bill hoped he might be still able to sample the material or the atmosphere inside the container using gas chromatography.

Bill Chalker contacted Mrs Stansfield for details about the incident and first viewed the sample with a video-imaging microscope. This showed it greatly magnified on a TV screen and allowed it to be compared with a sample of spiderweb from Bill's garden. The two were so similar that it seems Noelene's later addition had been spiderweb — further 'analysis' of the sample would be inconclusive.

Bryan Dickeson and Moira McGhee

Field trip to

Barraba

12–15 April 2002

Barraba, population 1350, lies 566km north of Sydney in gently rolling countryside, famous for its fine grade wool. The region is a diverse, ancient landscape with complex geological faulting. Asbestos is no longer mined at Woods Reef 10km east of the town, but nearby diatomaceous earth deposits make the region Australia's 'kitty-litter capital'. Forty kilometres west is Mount Kaputar National Park — 37,000 hectares of old-growth and regrowth forest on eroded volcanic peaks.

Barraba is a major focus for UFO/unusual activity, day and night, aerial and terrestrial:

- on 31 January 2002 an Upper Horton local saw a dome-shaped UFO up close
- an AUFORN member independently reported a black helicopter and F111 on unusual manoeuvres, in the same place soon afterwards (strange aircraft frequent the area)
- residents often report an unusual, loud humming noise, associated with unusual events.
- A three-day trip to Barraba in 2001 was extremely successful and passed very quickly.

The 2002 Members' four-day field trip was very eventful and a detailed report will appear in the next issue of the *UFO Reporter* (for June 2002).

Special thanks to:

- Merlene and Laurie for their tireless and unstinting organisation of the trip from the Barraba end.
- The Barraba folk for their enthusiasm and generosity — a highlight of the trip
- Barry Taylor from Grafton for communicating his expertise and ideas on observing and filming UFO activity, and
- Elizabeth Budek and Mark Nolan in Sydney for bringing it all together.

Australian National Seminar

August 2002

Call for speakers/presenters

UFOR(NSW) is hosting an Australian ufology seminar in Sydney on Friday 3, Saturday 4, and Sunday 5 August 2002.

Friday/Saturday sessions will be held at the YWCA, Central Sydney

Sunday will be an informal session focusing on the UFO Abduction phenomena, and held in the Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre, nearby.

We hope to arrange **specialist workshops** for smaller groups on Monday and Tuesday (6 & 7 August), depending on the expertise on offer.

To present a program which best covers what is happening in Australian ufology we are calling for speakers and presenters. If you are involved in the Australian UFO scene, and wish to share your original findings, investigations, experience and expertise with others:

- Send us a short resume about yourself and your work
- Tell us what your presentation(s) will be about
- Indicate what form the presentation takes, how long it takes (about 1 hour is preferred), and what presentation aids you require
- Indicate any restrictions/preferences (eg. If only available for Friday)
- Indicate any costs and charges involved for the presentation
- Indicate what additional support you require, financial or otherwise to make your presentation *
- If proposing to hold a workshop, indicate the environment, facilities, numbers required and cost to individual participants

Please provide these details to 2002 Seminar UFOR(NSW), PO Box Q95, Queen Victoria Building, NSW 1230 by **15 May 2002**.

It is now some 50 years since flying saucers appeared over the White House in Washington DC on July 19 and 26, 1952. At the time this event was as traumatic for American authorities as the September 11 attack on New York in 2001. It also marks the point where civilian groups emerged to investigate the UFO phenomenon. The 2002 seminar will adopt a theme around: **Close Encounters in the 21st Century: the Next 50 Years of Civilian UFO Investigations.**

Probable presenters so far include: John Auchettl (Melbourne), Mike Farrell (Port Macquarie), Graciela Flain (Sydney), Lucy Gomez (Wollongong), Sue Hanson (Tauranga, New Zealand), Kevin Robb (Adelaide).

*Please note: We may only be able to reimburse travel costs **partially**, depending on any excess we make from seminar registrations.

Obituary

Andrew Paul Tomas

1906–2001

Andrew Tomas died on 1 November 2001, aged 95, in Chico California. His health had been declining after a heart attack some months earlier left him a complete invalid. Tomas was an important and influential figure in Australian ufology during the 1950s and 60s before becoming a successful international author of occult, hermetic, and UFO-related books. His life was indeed an extraordinary one.

He was born in St Petersburg on 23 June 1906, the son of a civil engineer whose military career required the family move to Helsinki in 1911, while Finland was still under the control of the Russian Czar. In 1912 the family moved to Vladivostok when his father took up the position of State Controller of Railways in the Russian Far East.

At that time, Vladivostok was an important, cosmopolitan outpost of the Russian Empire. However, the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 changed everything. The ensuing civil unrest in Russia saw the port occupied by western Allies, led by 70,000 Japanese soldiers and a British token force in 1918. Japan hoped to expand into Siberia as the new Soviet state collapsed.

When Stalin finally 'won the West' he deeply distrusted any remnants of the old Order, and quickly moved to consolidate all former Russian territories. Foreign troops abandoned Vladivostok to the Red Army in 1922.

Thousands of refugees displaced from Vladivostok by the new regime left for Manchuria. The Tomas family moved to Harbin in 1923 where Andrew attended a Methodist missionary school to learn English, typing, and bookkeeping.

However, Japan's influence was growing in Manchuria (it was fully occupied by the Japanese Military in 1931-32) and the Tomas family moved to Shanghai during 1924, after Andrew graduated from high school. He could speak and write Russian, English and French fluently, and spoke some Italian.

Andrew went to the United States in 1927 to work as an accountant, but returned to China in 1931 after the Wall Street Crash and the onset of the Great Depression.

He spent World War II in Shanghai (throughout the Japanese Occupation), but emigrated to Australia during Mao Zedong's Long March from northern China to Shanghai, in 1948. At that time, Sydney attracted significant numbers of Russian expatriates from China and Andrew lived in Bay Street, Brighton-le-Sands for some years, working as an auditor.

He was extremely well-read, across many cultures. His interests included ancient history, archaeology, astronomy, metaphysics, palaeontology, philosophy, science, technology, and theology. He developed an intense interest in Masonic and esoteric philosophies while in America and self-published a book, *The Planetary Doctrine* back in Shanghai during 1935. This referred to strange shiny objects seen in the sky that provided 'planet-to-planet communication'.

Tomas saw his first UFO in the skies over Holdsworthy (southwestern Sydney), while visiting the Royal National Park, on the afternoon of 24 March 1954.

After reading a *Sydney Morning Herald* article about UFOs and the work of the Australian Flying Saucer Bureau (AFSB), he

contacted its founder, Edgar Jarrold, who quickly appointed him 'Official Sydney Observer' to collect flying saucer information from New South Wales.

When Edgar Jarrold suddenly retired from the AFSB for 'personal reasons' in July 1955, Tomas was reluctant to take on the leadership himself. He helped the group survive as a branch of the Adelaide-based Flying Saucer Research Society, under its Director, Fred Stone. In late 1956, the group re-emerged as an independent Sydney group, the UFO Investigation Centre (UFOIC).

Tomas remained an active and important member of UFOIC. He edited its periodicals, first the *UFO Bulletin*, then the *Australian Flying Saucer Review* until 1965. He remained most interested in the esoteric and apocalyptic aspects of the subject, believing that an impending world-wide catastrophe would bring about Humanity's recognition of, and reconciliation with, extraterrestrial civilizations.

While these views were extremely common amongst UFO folk then (and persist today, 40 years on!), Andrew found his ideas were less popular with those who managed UFO groups within Australia. At the time, their main purpose was to follow the American fashion of trying to embarrass US Federal authorities into a "proper, official investigation" of the UFO phenomenon. Tomas' editing was less political and more eclectic or esoteric.

After 1965, at an age when most of would be considering retiring completely from active life, Tomas gave up his work with UFOIC to pursue his other interests and to travel. In 1966 he visited India, Egypt and

England. He moved to Paris in 1966 and spent time in London, Portugal, Italy, Moscow and Yugoslavia researching material for a new career as an author. His two international bestsellers were:

- *We are Not the First* (Souvenir, 1971) about modern 'rediscoveries' of ancient ideas such as quantum theory and evolution, and
- *On the Shores of Endless Worlds* (Souvenir, 1974), which looks at the possible ET origins of Mankind through genetic engineering (ideas developed since by Sitchin!).

Other published works include: *Atlantis — From Legend to Discovery* (Robert Hale, 1972), *The Home of the Gods* (rare — Berkley, 1972), *Shambhala, Oasis of Light* (rare — Berkley, 1972), *Beyond the Time Barrier* (Sphere, 1974), *Beyond Telepathy* (rare — Sphere, 1974). Andrew Tomas also produced numerous esoteric articles and writings for limited distribution.

Tomas met his wife Heather Hill at an Ancient Astronaut conference in Zurich, Switzerland during 1975 (where Erich von Daniken had published the bestseller *Chariots of the Gods* in 1968 — translated into English in 1969). Andrew and Heather are both charter members of von Daniken's Ancient Astronaut Society.

They moved to West Germany and married in Copenhagen during 1976, then settled in Chico California in 1977 where Andrew could continue his research at the State College.

Andrew is also survived by two stepsons from Heather's first marriage, Stanley and Rodney Hill.

So *where* and *who* is

Edgar Ronald Jarrold

(aka Roy Peter Simpson)

Bryan Dickeson

UFO investigators in Australia have great difficulty finding good data about those who pioneered the subject here half a century ago. The recent death of Andrew Tomas demonstrates this problem (many of our readers asked, 'Who's Andrew Tomas?'). It also revives major concerns from the mid-1950s.

Andrew Tomas reluctantly took over the Australian Flying Saucer Bureau (AFSB) from Edgar Jarrold in July 1955 after Jarrold formally left 'for personal reasons'. However, these reasons were not apparent to Jarrold's AFSB colleagues (including Tomas) and there has been much speculation since then about 'whether he fell or was pushed'.

The mysterious and secretive Jarrold founded Australia's first open civilian UFO investigation group in Bankstown, Sydney soon after the Washington UFO flaps of 19 and 26 July 1952. (In their day, these flaps had as much effect on the American psyche and world media as the World Trade Centre attack of 11 September 2001).

At first it was very much a one-man affair, with limited public involvement and impact, but in mid-1954 the Australian Minister for Air (Billy McMahon) suggested Jarrold attend a meeting with Air Force Intelligence in Melbourne. Their discussions were amicable and the Department of Air initiated a policy of referring specific sightings and theories to AFSB (that is, to Jarrold). An account of Jarrold's meeting appears in the AFSB's third and final publication of the *Australian Flying Saucer Magazine* (January 1955).

However, this change in direction and increases in sightings throughout 1954 meant that by

April 1955, Jarrold was severely neglecting other AFSB affairs, including the group's membership. Andrew Tomas in Sydney helped Fred Stone (in Adelaide) support the group until a new leadership structure could be implemented to keep it running.

Many of Jarrold's activities at the time involved mysterious nocturnal phonecalls, visits from men in suits, gothic events, and so on, which all became key elements of the original 'Men in Black' phenomenon, popularised by Gray Barker in his book, *They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers* (Werner Laurie Ltd, London, 1956). The Men in Black phenomenon was later reinvented by other American authors such as John Keel and repackaged as a popular film in 1997, with little resemblance to the original (watch out for *Men in Black 2*, or 'MIIB' due out later in 2002).

After leaving AFSB, Jarrold lived on in Bankstown until 1962–1963, working as an 'assistant storeman', before disappearing from sight altogether. In recent years, several researchers have assured me that Jarrold is dead but that he has one, or possibly two sons living in Queensland.

I have not been able to find any record of death for Edgar Ronald Jarrold and believe he could still be alive (aged 82 or 83), although he may have changed his name —

again! There may also be some truth in an account I have that after AFSB he joined a small rapid-deployment team of 'undercover' UFO investigators, operating in NSW but managed by the Australian Army's covert UFO investigation team in Melbourne.

A recent check of the Australian National Archives in Canberra lists three items held in their National Office for Edgar Ronald Jarrold:

- *Lonely Darling* (a musical work) Edgar Ronald Jarrold of Sydney. Date submitted to register copyright: 2 July 1945 — not registered. (Series no/control symbol/barcode = A1336/41592/ 4008002) Contents date range: 1945–1945. Access status: open.
- Jarrold Edgar Ronald alias Roy Peter Simpson (Title, no details) (Series no/control symbol/barcode = A367/C70388/782726) Contents date range: 1940–1943. Access status: not yet examined.
- R.P. Simpson — letter of thanks to prime minister (John Curtin) in connection with release from internment in England (Edgar Ronald Jarrold). (Series no/control symbol/barcode = MP742/251 1 778/6017957) Contents date range: 1941–1943. Access status: Not yet examined

Edgar/Roy/whoever, if you're still out there somewhere, we'd love to hear from you.

Collaroy

during 2001

While 2001 was a fairly quiet year in New South Wales for UFO phenomena, Sydney's northern beaches were the focus for a series of unusual incidents early on. One particular incident in late February was sufficiently intriguing for members of the UFO Society of Western Sydney (based in Campbelltown), to organise a series of skywatches for some months afterwards. Numerous erratic lights in the sky were seen during these skywatches and in late June there was a particularly interesting event. The two following accounts describe these major incidents.

North Collaroy Beach/South Narrabeen, 23 February 2001

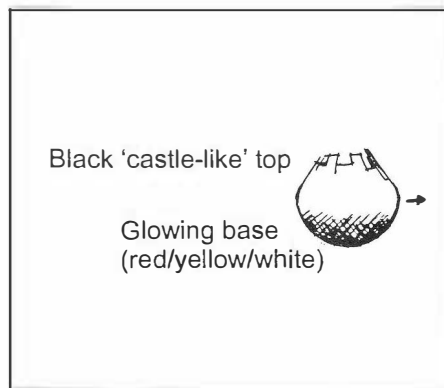
by Moira McGhee

On Friday evening of 23 February 2001, at 10.45 p.m., a large object with a glowing red hemispherical base and a 'dark, unlit, castle-like upper section' passed from west to east over Collaroy, then out to sea before disappearing several kilometers offshore. (Some witnesses described the base as a 'hot yellowish-white'.)

The object was sighted and reported by a retired army officer, his wife and a neighbour – other Stuart Street apartment building residents only remembered hearing the very loud noise the object made ('like a hundred motor-bikes'). The object was seen for several minutes by several streets ('at least') of Collaroy/Narrabeen residents, many drawn outside by the loud noise. At one point the noise stopped completely for several seconds and then 'came on again'.

The object passed north of Stuart Street, coming from over the Narrabeen Lagoon (and before that, from the west — from over Kuring-gai Chase National Park). It moved above the northern 'escarpment' of the Wheeler Heights/Collaroy Heights plateau just south of the lagoon, and about 30 degrees up in the sky – it may have been only 35 metres above

the ground. Several witnesses reported that the object created a



definite draft of air in the direction of travel.

Two bouncers on the door at the Sands Hotel, north of Stuart Street, were said to have rushed outside at the noise and to have had a very clear view of the object, but these 'casual staff' could not be located later for confirmation. The object disappeared out to sea — see Figures 3.

The following Saturday morning (24 February), several aircraft including an Australian Air Force Hercules and a black and orange Naval Recovery helicopter had overflown the Collaroy area, 'as if looking for something.' One small fixed-wing plane had unusual round objects on the end of its

wings — presumed to be some kind of sonar.

At 10 p.m. that Saturday evening a large white ball of light came from the sea directly westward to about 1km from shore. It came in quickly, turned, then disappeared. It was very large and very definitely 'not the Whiteman/Good-year blimp' (too slow).

Several Collaroy residents tried to contact the 1800 National UFO hotline (based in Brisbane) during Saturday, but received a recorded message saying the service was temporarily unavailable.

On Sunday, several more planes flew over the area. One extremely large, four-engined Naval plane flew at very low altitude and low speed, with its cargo doors open. Monash University (Melbourne) and Phenomena Research Australia (Melbourne) personnel are believed to have been discretely providing technical advice and support for a Defence Department investigation.

Another unconfirmed report from Friday 23 at Darwin is also of particular interest to UFO investigators.

An Australian Air Force source reported that four identical UFOs had been seen near Darwin (NT) earlier that Friday evening. Five

Australian Air Force jets from Darwin had given chase, but they had been out-manoeuvred.

At one point when the jets drew level with the craft, the objects had disappeared and reappeared further off and behind the jets. The objects had turrets on top, which had swivelled to face the planes and this had unsettled the pilots. Missiles/weapons had been fired at one object but these had 'bounced off' while still some distance away.

The pursuit had continued across country with RAAF planes having to be replaced for refuelling at Pine Gap and Richmond AFBs. The original group had split up inland and one had been pursued as far as Mount Gambier, South Australia, before it also disappeared.

The Collaroy incident of 23 February 2001 was investigated by INUFOR, UFOR(NSW) and UFOESA. Peter Khoury and Bill Chalker of UFOESA produced a videotape of some witness statements on Sunday 25 February, which was shown at a meeting of the UFO Society of Western Sydney on 14 March 2001.

Addendum

The position where the object vanished on Friday night (several miles east of Collaroy) appears to be a favoured location for unusual phenomena. On several occasions during the mid-1990s, residents of Elanora Heights (directly north of the Narrabeen Lagoon) reported seeing a series of bright star-like objects appear at that location (to their southeast), before they sped off either westwards and inland, or northwards along the coast.

On two different occasions, in the very early morning and near that location:

- An 'explosion of light' had been seen and a thin, single ring of cloud had radiated rapidly outwards from that location, horizontal to the ground and several hundred metres up.
- The Elanora Heights residents had experienced an unusual and disorienting 'wave', where the ground seemed to ripple

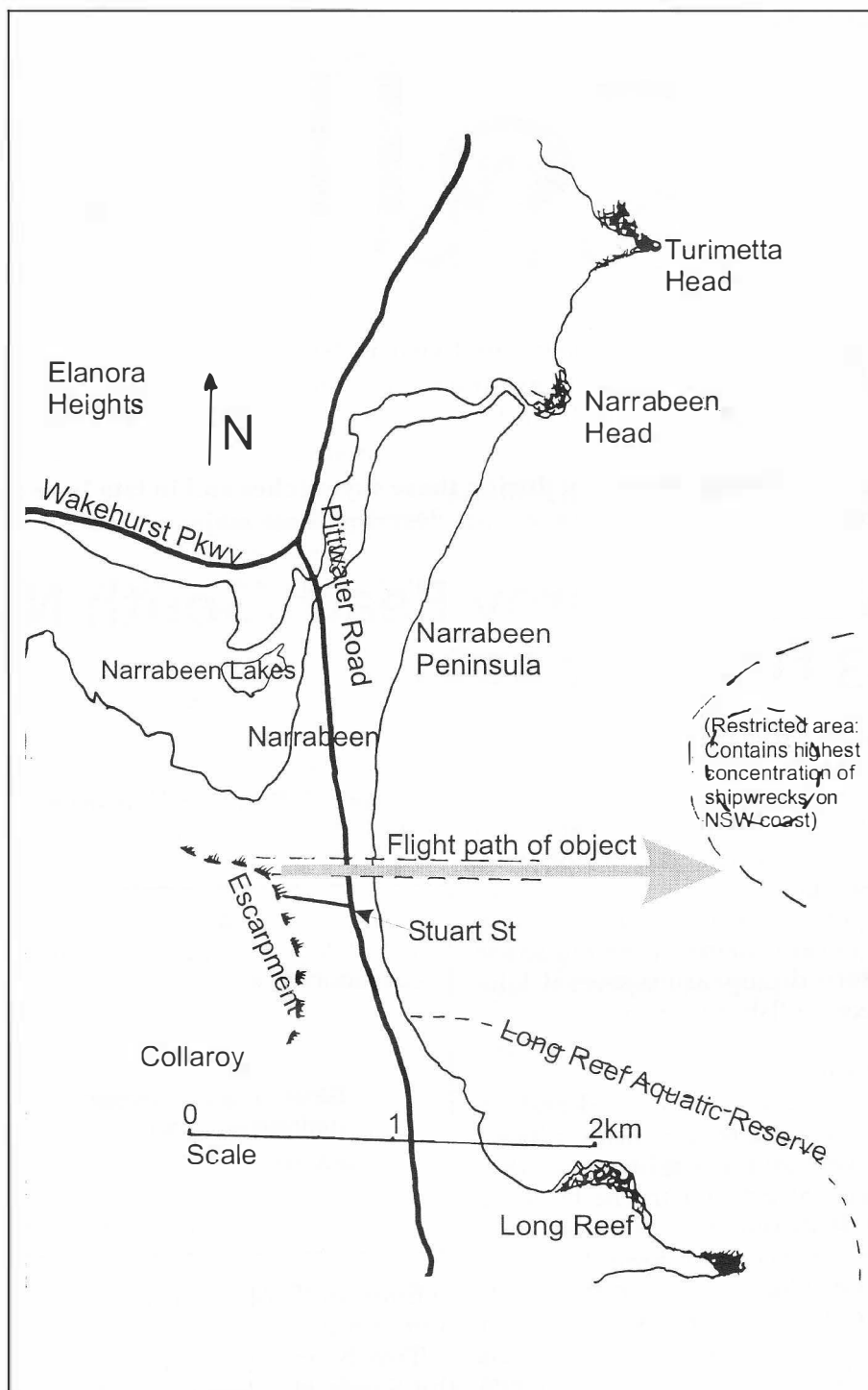


Figure 3. Map of Collaroy area

from the southeast to the northwest. This was not the usual sort of earthquake. They live on a cliff top and reported that they had been temporarily 'projected' about 10 metres southeast so they could look down into their neighbour's lit back yard, which was not normally visible from the kitchen. A distant, muffled explosion was heard following the wave, from the southeast (seaward).

Collaroy revisited

Attila Kaldy and Trevor Foster, UFO Society of Western Sydney (UFOSWS)

(This account is based on a report Attila and Trevor wrote for the monthly UFOSWS newsletter, the *Phenomenon Times* of July 2001, pp 8–10.)

On Wednesday 27 June 2001 at around 6 p.m., Trevor and Attila arrived at the main public carpark east of the Golf Course clubhouse at Long Reef Point for a mid-week skywatch. It was already dark and they left their cars and carried their equipment further eastwards to the very end of the access road, past the helicopter landing pad and a smaller carpark. They turned off the end of the road to the north/north-east to take up their usual position (South $33^{\circ} 44' 35 \pm 0.5''$, East $151^{\circ} 19' 02 \pm 0.5''$).

Their vantage point had an unhindered view of Sydney beaches further north and covers some 135° from the west to the north-northeast, from neighbouring Collaroy and Narrabeen beaches in the foreground, to Bangalley Head (117m high) some 13km along the coast. Sparse trees to the east and south lightly screen the view over to the Pacific Ocean horizon. The position is about 30m above sea level and overlooks much of the Long Reef Marine Reserve which circles the peninsula for some 500–1000 metres around the point.

Using the Visible or 'Sensible' Horizon formula, the eastern horizon's distance in kilometres is about 12km away ($2.08 \times$ the square root of the eye/observer height in metres above sea level).

The sky was mostly clear, with a few small cloud patches. There was a southerly breeze ahead of a cool southerly change expected for later that evening. The Moon was in the last quarter high above, some 70 degrees up from the Western horizon.

The sky showed the normal busy north-south air traffic near Sydney (about one plane every 30 seconds travelling towards or away from Sydney Airport, some 25–27km southwest of their viewing position, with an airport curfew from about 11 p.m.), and they noted an occasional faint streak of light from space debris or meteors.

First orange globe

Around 8 p.m. both men noticed a faint orange globe of light appear 2–3 degrees above the northeastern horizon. It glided southwest, across about 25° of sky, in towards the shore and below the horizon, until it was about 1 km out from the Bilgola Head (45m high), south of Avalon, 11km up the coast.

The object stopped and hovered above the water, well below cliff height (45m) for about a minute: Attila watched it through his telescope (a Saxon 350mm refractor with 24mm/14x and 9mm/38x magnification options). During this observation he switched from the lower power (25mm) to the higher

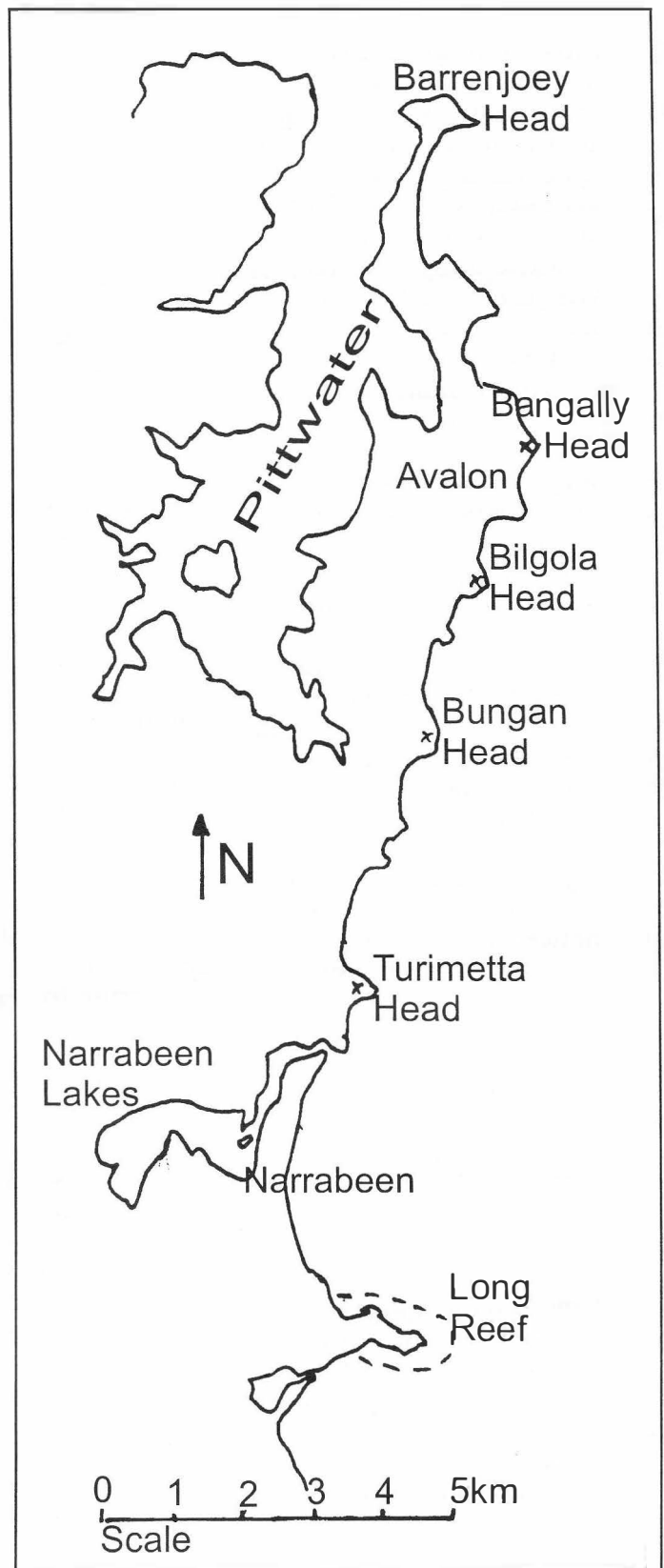


Figure 4. Map of Northern Beaches

power (9mm) eyepiece. Trevor was using a pair of binoculars, magnification 7x50.

The Observers could see orange light from the object reflecting off the water as it slowly descended. The sea surface below was fairly smooth with a swell of about half a metre.

The orange object then seemed to 'collapse within itself' into a small point of light, when it got close to the water and disappeared.

Second orange globe

A few minutes later, around 8.30p.m. a similar, spherical object appeared from the same starting position as the first, moving to the southwest with the same velocity

Attila was able to take some photographs, using a Pentax SP 500 Asahi camera and Kodak 400 ASA film (exposure time 15 seconds). A tube adapter attaches this camera to the 350mm Saxon when using the telescope as the prime focus. Attila used the telescope, switching from the higher (9mm) to the lower magnification (25mm) eyepiece.

The second object hovered over the same ocean position out from Bilgola Head as the first, for almost two minutes. They watched the object descend towards the ocean, noting its light reflecting from the ocean surface merge with the object. They distinctly saw it submerge and disappear from sight.

Orange tri-winged craft

A little before 9 o'clock, the two men noticed another larger and brighter orange object approaching their position from the eastern horizon. At first their view was partially obstructed by nearby tree branches, but within a minute the object moved clear of these.

For several minutes, Attila trained his telescope on this object and saw that it was a three-winged, triangular craft with a central dome underneath. Each wing tip was upturned and had two thin outer strip lights, in parallel, one above the other. The object was much larger than a helicopter and completely filled the field of view of the 24mm (14x) eyepiece — see Figure 6.

Trevor and Attila were both 'stunned' — Attila picked up his telescope and ran to the eastern side of Long Reef for a better view, away from any vegetation. The object had now settled below the horizon, some 8 ± 2 km due east of Long Reef Point (South $33^\circ 44' \pm 1'$, East $151^\circ 25' \pm 1'$). It was a brilliant orange with a bright halo of orange light around it.

Attila ran back to collect Trevor. They left most of their equipment at the initial viewing location and watched the object from the new

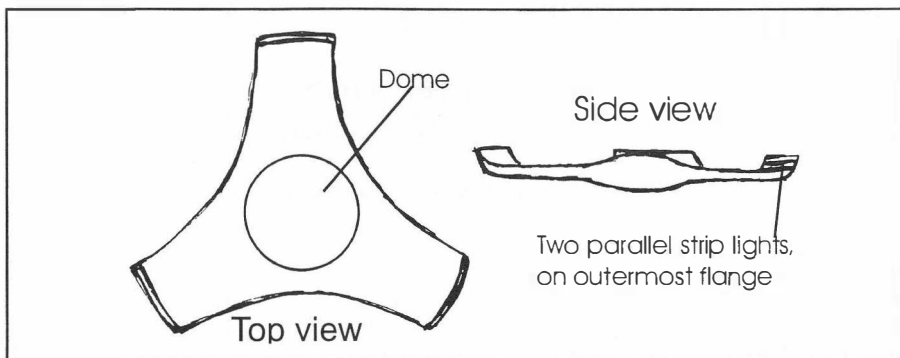


Figure 5. Triangular craft

position on the eastern cliffside of Long Reef Point, half-way between the small car park and the point itself (South $33^\circ 44' 41 \pm 0.5''$, East $151^\circ 19' 11 \pm 0.5''$).

The object was hovering motionless just above the ocean's surface and could now be seen as a row of seven lights - four bright lights on the left, a small gap, then two fainter central lights, another small gap, then one bright light on the right. The brighter outer lights cast a reflection on the water below, while the two fainter central lights did not.

Interestingly, the bright outer lights were also wavering and shimmering irregularly, as if generating considerable heat or air turbulence around about.

Within five minutes of the object settling above the water, three (possibly more) unmarked black helicopters seemed to appear 'from everywhere, mostly from behind us', inland from the southwest and northwest (possibly from Bankstown and Richmond).

The helicopters were scanning the Collaroy foreshore area, at no more than 50 metres up (normally, aircraft cannot go lower than 300 metres over inhabited areas). After a few minutes, the helicopters seemed to vanish from where they had come. At one point a commercial airliner appeared to circle the craft, high up. Soon afterwards, commercial flights seemed to be diverting around the area.

After watching the object for some time, 'it did not seem to be doing much' and activity around seemed to quieten down. At around 11.45 p.m. Attila and Trevor moved the rest of their equipment to their second loca-

tion, including Attila's mobile phone.

Attila contacted Air Traffic Control and the Coast Guard to see if any reports or calls had been received. Someone had contacted the Coast Guard, concerned about seeing a 'ship out to sea that looked to be on fire'.

They watched the object for over three hours altogether. On several occasions, bright beams of white light were seen to leave or 'hit' the object on the left side at a 45° angle to the north. These were longish light flashes, lasting less than a second.

During that time, two ships also passed extremely close to the object — one appeared to pass directly behind the object.

By midnight, the area around seemed to be dead calm, and with a southerly change imminent (possibly with rain), they decided to go home. They both had a 90 minute trip home to Western Sydney, and work the following day.

The object was not changing or moving and they walked back to their original set up point, looking over their shoulder from time to time to check. The object then began to move around erratically and 'scintillate' for a few minutes. Training their binoculars on it carefully they could see it was moving up and down, above the water. It would jump upwards 1-2 degrees, so that its reflection on the water's surface was no longer visible, then return to its original position just above the water. There appeared to be no particular pattern to these movements, and it stopped after a few minutes. The object was still visible out to sea when they left the area around midnight.

UFO groups in New South Wales

UFO Research (NSW)

PO Box Q95

Queen Victoria Building NSW 1230

Contacts: Anthony Clarke (ph. 9529 3552)

Doug Moffett (ph. 9629 2048)

<http://www.ufor.asn.au>

Australian-Hungarian Centre for UFO Studies and Friendship

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INFODIG Central Coast

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Australian UFO Research Network Hotline

1800 772 2888

UFOR (NSW)

2002 Program

Friday-Monday, 12-15 April

Members' field trip to Northern New South Wales - Barraba and Pacific Palms.

PLEASE NOTE: CHANGE OF DATE!!

Saturday 11 May 1: 5 p.m. The Entrance — Central Coast

General meeting with local group at the Tuggerah Lakes Memorial RSL Club (turn left at Anzac Road, travelling north along The Entrance Road from Sydney).

Discussion, update and videos. Entrance \$5.

Saturday-Sunday, 25-26 May

NEXUS Conference, Rex Hotel, Potts Point, Sydney. Speakers include Dr Len Horowitz, David Hatcher Childress, Sherrill Sellman, Brian Martin, Skip Atwater. For further information contact editor@nexusmagazine.com or phone (07) 5442 9280.

Sunday 2 June 1: 5 p.m. Surry Hills

General members' meeting: Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre, corner of Norton and Collins Streets, Surry Hills. Discussion, update and videos. Entrance \$7 members, \$9 non-members.

Sunday 9 June Museum of Contemporary Art, Circular Quay

UFOR(NSW)'s Chris Downie will be presenting a talk on the UFO Art Show at Campbelltown in 2001-2002 as part of the Sydney Biennale — see newspaper advertisements for details.

Sunday 7 July: 1-5 p.m. South Coast - Wollongong

General meeting with local UFOR members at Corrimal Community Centre, 15 Short Street, Corrimal. Discussion, update and videos. Entrance \$5.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday 3-5 August Sydney YWCA/Surry Hills

2002 National UFO Conference: See Call for Speakers/Presenters details on page 13.

Sunday 1 September: 1-5 p.m. Penrith

General meeting: Venue to be finalised and notified. Discussion, update and videos. Entrance \$5.

Sunday 6 October: 1-5 p.m. Surry Hills

General members' meeting: Surry Hills Neighbourhood Centre, corner of Norton and Collins Streets, Surry Hills. Discussion, update and videos. Entrance \$7 members, \$9 non-members

Sunday 3 November: 1-5 p.m. Riverwood

General meeting: Venue to be finalised and notified. Discussion, update and videos. Entrance \$5.

Early December

Christmas get together. Details to be finalised.